November 23, 1994

Dear Harold,

Another anniversary has gone by and it's hectic here at the old TSBD. The big news is the Crenshaw/Shaw suit has been dropped. Rumors floating out of the ASK conference say they received from $100,000 to $1,000,000. I called the attorney representing one of the plaintiffs and the real story is much different.

The terms are confidential, but none of the plaintiffs have to pay a dime, nor does any insurance company. I would not be surprised to see the newspaper run some sort of response from Crenshaw, possibly an edited version of his original reply.

Already thrown out of court are Tom Wilson's suit and appeal against Blakey and Belin. These people are really outrageous with this legal garbage, especially when I know what I do about Crenshaw's original manuscript with the order from LBJ to kill Oswald "Make sure the son-of-a-bitch dies, you can drown him in his own blood."

Gus Russo heard that from Shaw and Crenshaw in the spring of 1991, one year before publication, and passsed it on to Dave and I at that time. We subsequently learned a person with Crenshaw's publisher repeated the phrase to a peer reviewer. If the quote was real, why take it out? If it was phony, why believe anything they have to say?

The Sixth Floor owns the three original Tramps negatives shot by the Dallas Times Herald. Vanity Fair ordered prints for the LaFontaine/Elrod article, but they have just been returned - unused. I take that to mean the article will not run.

Lardner told me the Post did run the LaFontaine article by him and he vetoed it. But the editors overruled him, thinking the story was intriguing and they wanted to see what would surface. They presumably feel burned by this experience.

You asked in your last letter (October 8) if the LaFontaines originated the "Ricky White indecency" or "were first to go for it." To my knowledge, they were brought in prior to the news conference to create a documentary film exploiting the story. Their company, Desperado Productions, was hired by the Val Verde Corporation, which had been set up by Gary R. Baily, president of the Matsu Corporation, the financial backing behind Ricky. It seems to me their "documentary" would be one-sided at best.

No one that I know of has been able to locate Oswald's jail cell records or has determined if such information was noted.

Beverly Oliver's book is out and she has changed significant parts of her story. Her claims that Ruby stripper Jada disappeared right after she admitted knowledge of a Ruby-Oswald relationship are completely refuted by an FBI interview with Jada, a network tv appearance, interviews and appearances in New York in the days following the assassination, her appearance in a nudie film shot in Dallas early in 1964, and by her son who told Nigel Turner in 1988 and Gerald Posner in 1992 that his late mother specifically denied ever having known, or knowing of, a Ruby-Oswald relationship.

Nor did Andrew Armstrong, as Beverly claims, try to sell her Jada's wardrobe a few days after the assassination. In the FBI interview Jada said the Sunday after her October 30 walkout from Ruby's club, she returned to the Carousel and picked up-her gowns. Case Closed. Ooops, sorry!